

I do believe that when we know better, we do better. I have made it my mission to call out discrimination when I see or hear it. I will always link arms with those being targeted and stand up for them when they are scared to do it alone.

I would like diversity and inclusion training to be added to our curriculum. We won't always attend school in this district, in this "bubble." We need to be prepared to become global citizens. We need to be prepared and empowered to stand up and link arms.

IN RECOGNITION OF ILLINOIS' BICENTENNIAL

HON. ADAM KINZINGER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my fellow Illinoisans in celebrating 200 years of being the Land of Lincoln, the Prairie State, the heart of the Midwest, and the true microcosm of America.

With our varied landscape and diverse population, our location in the dead center of the country, and our historical significance, Illinois is home to the hard-working and the kind-hearted. On December 3, 1818, Illinois became the 21st state admitted to the Union.

Today, Illinois is the fifth most populated state in the country and the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to abolish slavery. Our proud state leads the nation in agriculture, manufacturing, specialized license plates, and is home to superheroes. Yes, we boast about having the highest number of personalized license plates produced in the country, and the home of Superman really exists in Southern Illinois. We are home to the beloved 2016 World Series Champions, the Chicago Cubs, and the recently beleaguered but still beloved, Chicago Bears.

U.S. Presidents Lincoln, Grant, Reagan, and Obama all lived in Illinois. In fact, Ronald Reagan's boyhood home of Dixon is located in the district I represent. Illinois' 16th Congressional District is also home to the First Lincoln-Douglas Debate, which took place on August 21, 1858 in downtown Ottawa's Washington Square.

We're proud to celebrate this rich history, fortunate to call Illinois home, and honored to serve our communities here in Congress. As we kick off this bicentennial celebration of our Great Pumpkin State, we have a lot to be proud of and a lot of history to look back on.

Mr. Speaker, today I stand here to wish Illinois a very happy birthday and a wonderful bicentennial celebration all year long. Here's to our state sovereignty and national union.

HONORING ANDRE LACY

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Andre Lacy, who passed away this week on a trip in Botswana, Africa at the age of 78.

Andre was a well-known entrepreneur and philanthropist throughout Indiana and the na-

tion. He served as Chairman of the LDI, Ltd. Board, a family business which evolved over the years into a successful business innovation solutions firm. With his business expertise, Andre devoted his time to Butler's Business Accelerator program by mentoring students and graciously donated to Butler's business school to promote their continued success. Throughout his life, Andre made a profound impact on countless Hoosiers by providing his guidance to many boards, commissions, and civic organizations.

On a personal note, Andre Lacy was my friend. He was a strong leader and a straight shooter that you could count on to be candid with you. Andre will be mourned most by those who knew him best, and he will be missed by all.

REMEMBERING HAROLD WEBB

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Harold Webb—Tuskegee Airman, North Carolina Director of Personnel, Wake County Commissioner—one of North Carolina's most distinguished leaders. Harold died this past Friday at the age of 92 after a lifetime of devoted public service. My wife Lisa and I extend our condolences to his wife Lucille, their family, and all Harold's extensive network of colleagues and friends as we express gratitude for his extraordinary life.

Born and raised in Greensboro, North Carolina, Harold attended public schools in Guilford County. Upon graduation, he served as a pilot with WWII's legendary Tuskegee Airmen, the first African-American unit to fly and maintain American combat aircraft. His unit received a Congressional Gold Medal in 2007 for its military achievements and was instrumental in paving the way for full integration of the Armed Forces. As the Raleigh News & Observer editorialized yesterday, "Webb was proud to be a member of the Greatest Generation, and it may fairly be said that he was among those who made it the greatest."

After the war, Harold received a Bachelor's degree in Biology and a Masters Degree in Education from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. He then became a teacher and principal in Orange County Schools and served in a variety of state-level education positions, including administrator of Chapter I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act in North Carolina schools.

In 1977, Harold was appointed by Governor James B. Hunt to be Director of State Personnel, the first African-American to serve in this position. He then served on the Wake County Board of Commissioners from 2003 to 2010, and was Chairman from 2008 to 2009.

Harold Webb's board service included The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, Shaw University Board of Trustees, Wake Technical Community College Board of Trustees, Wake County Planning Board, and the National Association of State Personnel Executives. He received an honorary doctorate from NC A&T University and, with Lucille, was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame in 2011. Harold was a faithful member

of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, where he held numerous leadership positions.

Harold Webb made life in Raleigh and North Carolina better for all of our citizens. I and many others valued him as a friend, collaborator, and colleague: a man you wanted on your team. He was a leader who got things done but was quick to share the credit, a kind and generous man skilled at bringing people together, and a great source of encouragement and inspiration. We join with Harold's family, his many friends and admirers, and members of the communities he served, in mourning his passing and honoring his exemplary life of leadership and public service.

TESTIMONY OF ASHTON NOONAN

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD testimony of Ashton Noonan.

Hello, my name is Ashton Noonan, I'm 13 years old and I'm transgender.

Throughout my life I always felt and said I was a girl. I loved Ariel and Wonder Woman; not Batman and Superman. People would make fun of me on the playground, or ask why I wanted to be a girl, but to me it just felt right.

Every year I got older, I felt more and more uncomfortable in my own skin. I couldn't look on the outside like who I felt I was on the inside. That was always very confusing, because why not? After all, this is MY identity.

The world is changing, and with your help we can change the perception people have of the whole LGBTQ community, but especially LGBTQ youth. WE need a safe space where we can be supported, loved and accepted. We can and need to make ALL schools that safe space for ALL children. We need YOUR support to model for everyone else in the world what it is to love and accept others for who they are. We could all live every day for better or for worse, but together we can thrive.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 18, 2017, I was unfortunately not present for roll call votes 685 through 687. If I had been present for these votes, I would have voted: Nay on roll call vote 685 on the motion to fix the convening time; Yea on roll call vote 686 on passage of the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act (H.R. 4375); and Yea on roll call vote 687 on passage of the Keep America's Refuges Operation Act (H.R. 3979).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on December 18, 2017, I missed